

## Communication

### FEMA Launches Ready Indian Country Preparedness Campaign

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced the launch of the Ready Indian Country campaign. The new campaign will provide disaster preparedness information resources for the 565 federally-recognized tribal nations and communities across the country. The goal

of Ready Indian Country is to partner with tribal leaders to ask individuals and families in Indian Country to take basic steps to prepare themselves for emergencies. Ready Indian Country's resources include existing Ready Campaign messaging and builds upon existing capacity with specific tools customized for Indian Country. These include:

- Brochures, posters and billboards
- Radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
- Tribal leader resources to help guide disaster planning efforts.

### Tornado Warning: Many Questioned First, Then Acted

In Joplin, many residents did not take immediate steps to protect themselves when they heard the tornado warning but waited for confirmation of the danger. A report from the National Weather Service found that this reaction is common and it takes a combination of warnings on different media to instigate action.

## Research

### Self-Diagnosis of Influenza during a Pandemic: a Cross-Sectional Survey

In the *British Medical Journal* researchers test the accuracy of self-diagnosis of influenza. They utilized sera and risk survey data from a New Zealand national A(H1N1) seroprevalence survey from November 2009 to March 2010 which yielded a sample of 318 children, 413 adults and 423 healthcare workers. The research showed that whether a person self-diagnosed influenza did not accurately show influenza seroprevalence. For example, in adults about 23% were positive for influenza in the group that self-diagnosed themselves as having influenza. About 21% were also positive for influenza in the group that diagnosed themselves as not having influenza. The full study is available online.



### Ten Years of Healthcare Preparedness in Michigan

The Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) within the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness and the Regional Healthcare Coalitions developed the publication, Ten Years of Healthcare Preparedness in Michigan to commemorate the achievements of Michigan's regional healthcare partners over the last decade. The PDF version of the publication is available online.

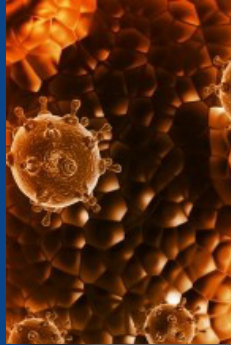
### Table of Contents...

Communication.....	1
Research.....	1
Homeland Security.....	2
Regional News .....	2
National News .....	3
International News.....	4
Tools & Resources .....	4
Training & Events .....	5

Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!  
October 7, 2011

## **Lethal Synergism of 2009 Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Virus and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* Co-infection Is Associated with Loss of Murine Lung Repair Responses**

Researchers in *mBio* studied the effect of secondary bacterial pneumonia infections on influenza severity. They inoculated mice with 2009 H1N1 influenza or seasonal influenza then after 48 hours inoculated some with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* leaving others as controls with just influenza. The research showed severe weight loss and lung damage with a 100% mortality rate in mice that were inoculated with both the 2009 H1N1 influenza virus and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. Those inoculated with the seasonal influenza virus and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* had minor lung damage with a 100% survival rate. The full study is available online.



## **Effect of Expanded US Recommendations for Seasonal Influenza Vaccination: Comparison of Two Pediatric Emergency Departments in the United States and Canada**

In the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, researchers study the effects of childhood seasonal influenza vaccination and emergency room visits due to influenza-like illness. They compared two emergency departments, one in the United States, a country with expanded influenza immunization recommendations for 2 to 4 year-olds and one in Canada, a country that did not expand influenza immunization recommendations. Data was collected over a 9-year period. The research showed a 34% reduction in emergency room visits in the US versus the Canadian hospital.



## **Homeland Security**

### **Progress Made and Work Remaining in Implementing Homeland Security Missions Ten Years After 9/11**

This Government Accountability Office report addresses the Department of Homeland Security's progress in implementing its homeland security missions, work remaining, and issues affecting implementation efforts.

### **9/11 Healing and Remembrance Program**

The Mental Health Association of New York City's 9/11 Healing and Remembrance Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. The program aims to assist and support those affected by the September 11 terrorist attacks as they travel and participate in 10th anniversary events.

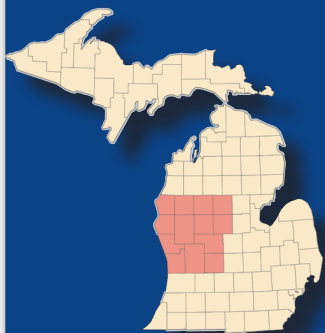
## **Michigan's Regional News**

### **Department of Homeland Security Staff Visit Region 6 for Special IED Course**

A wide variety of Region 6 partners attended a recent Improvised Explosive Device (IED) training course hosted by the VanAndel Research Institute (VAI) in Grand Rapids.

Representatives from Region 6 hospitals, emergency management programs, law enforcement agencies, Michigan State University, VAI, and local hotels attended the day-long event held in late summer. The session was led by training staff from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Infrastructure Protection Protective Security Coordination Division, who have conducted similar sessions in 11 other U.S. cities since 2007.

The "security planning session" introduced participants to a facilitated discussion



of cross-discipline responses to an IED attack scenario within a highly defined, high-impact area. In this case, a number of key public and private buildings spread across downtown Grand Rapids. The fast-paced scenario focused on a series of small bombs detonated in clusters at a convention center, local hotels, sports arena, and finally the discovery of unexploded IEDs at a Grand Rapids hospital.

DHS facilitators asked participants to describe how a multi-disciplinary response to the described events would unfold. The scenario was designed to overtax police, fire EMS, health care and law enforcement responses, a fact stressed by the DHS staff. DHS planners outlined fast escalating terrorist activities that seemed beyond most local expectations, but were designed to force responding disciplines to identify their community vulnerabilities, common risks, likely response, and the impact on health care as a part of a community critical infrastructure.



The end goal: help response disciplines better articulate how vital a joint response is during a large-scale event, and to help public and private partners learn more about each other's capabilities, response activities and how to coordinate their efforts. In particular, DHS staff told attendees one of the most important first steps, if an IED or potentially explosive device is found, is to quickly and safely evacuate the immediate area, thereby ensuring life safety and clearing the way for responders to react.

## National News

### **Novel Anthrax Vaccine and Antitoxin being Developed with Federal Support**

The advanced development of a novel next-generation anthrax vaccine and a new type of anthrax antitoxin have received support through [new contracts](#) funded the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).

### **Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Launches National Accreditation for Health Departments**

The PHAB launched the first national accreditation program for all public health departments on September 14, 2011 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The goal of PHAB's [accreditation program](#), initiated and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is to protect and improve Americans' health by advancing the quality and performance of all of the nation's public health departments, state, local, territorial and tribal. Learn more about PHAB and accreditation at [www.phaboard.org](http://www.phaboard.org).



### **CDC Report: A National Strategic Plan for Public Health Preparedness and Response**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released a report that outlines the [national strategy](#) for public health preparedness and response. The CDC national vision which they would like to have implemented by 2020 is people's health protected – people's health secured. To do this, the CDC recommends eight strategic objectives including: to prevent and/or mitigate threats to the public's health and to strengthen public health preparedness response infrastructure. The full report is available online.

## **America Unprepared: Are Budget Cuts Undermining National Disaster Readiness?**

Diminishing the capacity of the public health system to respond to disasters is bad policy. There has been a steady and dangerous erosion of the actual number of public health workers in the U.S. Training programs designed to improve disaster response capabilities are being cut to the bone. As an illustration of this trend, Preparedness and Response Learning Centers (PERLC), a new program introduced just last year as a "five-year effort" to engage the nation's schools of public health in the training of disaster workers was drastically cut in the 2011 budget -- and is scheduled for elimination in 2012.

## **State Funding a Concern after Decade of Preparedness Gains**

Dr. Ali Khan, Director of the CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, discusses the risk of state funding cuts on public health preparedness in the latest issue of The Lancet.

## **New CDC Developed Diagnostic Lab Test for Flu Approved**

The FDA has approved the CDC Human Influenza Virus Real-Time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel, a new in-vitro diagnostic kit to diagnose influenza virus infections in human respiratory tract specimens.

## **International News**

### **Resistant Tuberculosis Spreading in Europe at Alarming Rate**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Multi-Drug Resistant Tuberculosis is spreading in Europe at 80,000 new cases a year. WHO has developed an action plan to control the disease in Europe before it becomes a pandemic.

### **UN and USAID Report: Beyond Pandemics: A Whole-of-Society Approach to Disaster Preparedness**

Towards a Safer World is an initiative created in September of 2010 by the UN and USAID to document ways in which the world is made safer from influenza pandemics. This document includes information on what has been learned from worldwide pandemic preparedness since 2005; what lessons could be applied as a result, and where to apply the lessons; and how might these lessons most usefully be applied. This document is available online.

## **Tools & Resources**

### **FEMA's Gone Mobile Again**

FEMA offers two new ways to get information about how to prepare for and recover from disasters from your mobile devices. The FEMA Android app contains preparedness information for different types of disasters, an interactive checklist for emergency kits, a section to plan emergency meeting locations and more. Receive monthly disaster safety tips, shelter and disaster recovery center information by signing up to receive text messages from FEMA.



### **NIMS Guidelines for Credentialing of Personnel**

Developed by the Department of Homeland Security for government executives, emergency management practitioners, private-sector, volunteer, and NGO leaders and critical infrastructure (CI) owners and operators, the Guidelines promotes interoperability between all levels of government and the private sector for emergency response. The document provides guidance on national credentialing standards, typing processes and helpful tools.



# Training & Events

## Emergency Use Authorization Course Available Online

An Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) [online course](#) developed by the Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide public health officials, emergency managers, or Strategic National Stockpile coordinators with an introduction to the Emergency Use Authorization of medical products.

## Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training Center (EMHSTC): New 2012 Course Schedule

The Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training Centers offers new, elective, and mandated [courses](#) to meet emergency management training needs. To view the latest course schedule, please visit [www.michigan.gov/emhsd-training](http://www.michigan.gov/emhsd-training).

Date/Time	Event	Location
October 13-14, 2011	<a href="#">Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference</a> More information is available online.	Grand Rapids, MI
October 19-21, 2011	<a href="#">2011 ASTHO Annual Meeting</a> Key note speakers: Dr. Tom Frieden, CDC Director and Dr. Mary Wakefield, HRSA Administrator. Sessions include: a story-telling workshop, food safety, preparedness, integration of public health and healthcare, injury prevention and more.	Portland, OR
January 17-19, 2012	<a href="#">International Disaster Conference and Exposition</a> Public and Private sectors engage in problem solving, planning and preparation, discussing relevant issues dealing with Emergency Management, Homeland Security, First Response, Loss Mitigation, Business Continuity, and more.	New Orleans, LA
March 21-25, 2012	<a href="#">American Counseling Association 2012 Annual Conference</a> With focus on disaster mental health, social media, military members and their families, and the revised edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), DSM-V, this conference will feature pre-conference learning institutes and conference education sessions.	San Francisco, CA
May 21-25, 2012	<a href="#">2012 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness, and Response Training Summit</a> This summit provides opportunities to advance their knowledge, skills, and abilities in disaster preparedness and response in order to improve their capability to deliver public health and medical care services during disasters.	Nashville, TN



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